Interlinking of rivers

4430. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world experts have pointed that water flow on glacier-fed rivers will decrease substantially in the coming decades due to the effect of global warming;

(b) whether India propose to have any contingency plan in place by inter-linking of its rivers; and

(c) what follow-up action has been taken on our river inter-linking policy and how many agreements have been signed for such projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A number of reports about the effect of climate change and global warming on water flow have been published from time to time. Some of these reports indicate reduction of flows in glacier-fed rivers. The report titled "India's Water Economy bracing for a turbulent future" by World Bank states that "Climate change is likely to substantially increase overall monsoonal rainfall in India, but this is liekly to be poorly distributed in the sense that much of the additional rainfall will probably be in high-intensity storm events".

(b) and (c) The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development (NPP) in August 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river system along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus area to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under Ministry of Water Resoruces has been set up in 1982 to study the feasiblity of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under NPP (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of feasiblity reports. So far, NWDA has completed the feasibilities reports for 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component. A tripartite agreement (MoU) between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh was signed on 25.08.2005 for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Ken-Betwa link under Peninsular Component.